



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-1148
Phone (765)494-8371 (800)363-0469
FAX (765)494-4315 (800)363-0475

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 1999 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. Look for these reports on the Internet. Our Home Page address is listed at the bottom of this publication.

WINTER WHEAT

Seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared to 25 percent last year and 7 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 74 percent good to excellent, compared to 80 percent at this time a year ago.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Field preparation made good progress last week aided by warmer weather and dry field conditions. Farmers were applying fertilizer, tilling soils, purchasing supplies and preparing equipment for the upcoming planting season. Unseasonably cool temperatures and snow in early March slowed field activities. However, many farmers were able to complete tillage and chopping of stalks last fall following the early fall harvest of corn and soybeans.

OTHER CROPS

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 27 percent surplus, 69 percent adequate and 4 percent short. **Pasture condition** was rated 5 percent excellent, 41 percent good, 38 percent fair, 13 percent poor and 3 percent very poor.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 5.2 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 6 percent very short, 23 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 5 percent very short, 19 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Wheat Jointed	7	NA	25	7

CROP CONDITION

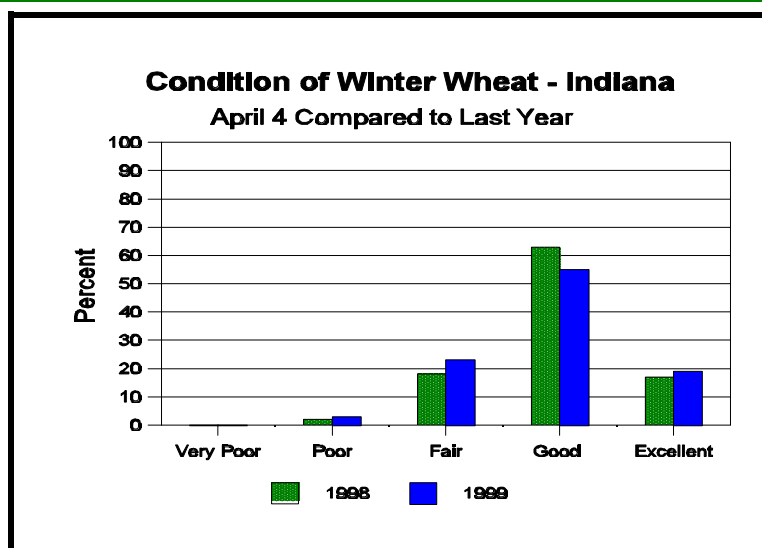
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat	0	3	23	55	19
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	63	17
Pasture	3	13	38	41	5

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	NA	0
Short	23	NA	1
Adequate	65	NA	53
Surplus	6	NA	46
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	NA	2
Short	19	NA	10
Adequate	71	NA	69
Surplus	5	NA	19

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
<http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html>

Crop Progress



Getting off to A Good Start

- Making the most of your herbicide program
- Stressing good agronomic practices

Production input cost is a primary concern to Indiana producers this year. One of their main concerns is the price of weed control. Going after the cheapest products, while a good idea, works only if they are right for the weeds that are present in a field. There is no substituted for knowing the weed spectrum for each field and matching the herbicides for those weeds. There are few if any truly cheap herbicides left on the market. If only one species of weed escapes the herbicide program in populations high enough to cause economic problems to the crop, additional applications will be needed. This could cause the overall cost of the herbicide program to increase by 50 to 100 percent.

If the field is to be no-tilled, then the burndown program must be complete. This can only be accomplished if the right burndown products are used at the correct rates and when the temperature is favorable for good kill. Changing the rates of one of the mixture components may be needed. If there is a large number of broadleaf weeds such as marestalk, fleabane, prickly lettuce, etc., additional 2,4-D might be needed; if a large number of grass species are present, then a little more Roundup or Touchdown will help. If the weeds can be controlled with Gramoxone, maybe an additional half pint will help achieve complete burndown. Adding a little more product to the burndown is cheaper than having escapes or regrowth which may take an additional late application of a product at the full labeled rate. Likewise, making the application a few days later when the temperature

is warmer will cause the herbicides to work better. The other option is to add a residual herbicide to the burndown spray. In corn, adding a product which contains atrazine in the burndown tank mix can improve the control of many of the hard-to-control weeds in no-tilled fields. There are many residual soybean herbicides that can be mixed with burndown treatments to boost the performance of the herbicides and provide a clean seedbed to start the crop off right.

A healthy uniform crop stand can do wonders toward competing with weeds, especially late emerging weeds. Getting the crop off to a good start will make any herbicide program work better and will best allow less than maximum rates of post-emergence herbicides to perform. A healthy and uniform crop stand will also come closer to eliminating the need for an additional post-emergence herbicide application to control late emerging weeds.

Listed below are 10 tips that I feel will help make a successful weed control program, and at the same time keep the cost of the program at a minimum.

1. Review last year's herbicide program. If there is a potential for carryover, don't use herbicides with similar modes of action as those used last year.
2. Compare herbicide products as to their effectiveness on the weeds that are in a given field, and buy the products or program of products that are economical for controlling those weeds.

(Continued on page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday April 4, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in. Soil Temp	April 1, 1999 thru April 4, 1999				
					Total	Days		Precipitation		GGD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN				Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Bloomington	74	37	57	+9	0.88	3		0.88	+0.36	3	43	+33
Bluffton	73	30	55	+11	0.28	2	37	0.28	-0.20	2	44	+40
Butlerville	72	29	55	+6	1.11	3	51	1.11	+0.53	3	40	+26
Castleton	72	34	59	+13	0.47	4		0.38	-0.09	3	51	+43
Crawfordsville	72	27	53	+7	0.40	2	46	0.40	-0.12	2	35	+27
Dubois_Ag	78	30	56	+8	1.23	3	56	1.23	+0.65	3	43	+31
Evansville	77	34	58	+7	1.52	3		1.52	+0.96	3	47	+30
Farmland	71	25	54	+11	0.46	3	48	0.46	+0.01	3	39	+35
Fort_Wayne	75	29	55	+12	0.19	3		0.19	-0.25	3	42	+38
Freelandville	76	33	56	+8	1.26	2		1.26	+0.74	2	38	+26
Greenfield	68	26	54	+9	0.49	3		0.49	-0.02	3	36	+32
Indianapolis_AP	74	37	58	+11	0.31	4		0.31	-0.20	4	47	+39
Indianapolis_SE	70	32	56	+10	0.50	4		0.50	+0.03	4	39	+31
Logansport	73	27	54	+11	0.25	2		0.25	-0.19	2	39	+35
New_Castle	70	27	52	+9	0.55	3		0.55	+0.04	3	33	+29
Perrysville	76	29	56	+10	0.41	1	49	0.41	-0.08	1	47	+40
Plymouth	75	33	57	+13	0.91	2		0.91	+0.43	2	48	+44
Scottsburg	74	30	55	+7	1.36	2		1.36	+0.79	2	40	+28
Shoals	77	26	54	+6	0.02	1		0.02	-0.55	1	40	+28
South_Bend	74	30	58	+15	0.61	2		0.61	+0.10	2	51	+47
Tell_City	78	32	56	+6	0.40	1		0.40	-0.25	1	43	+27
Terre_Haute_Ag	79	37	58	+11	0.74	2	53	0.74	+0.25	2	48	+40
Tipton_Ag	71	30	54	+11	0.32	2	50	0.32	-0.17	2	34	+30
Valparaiso_Ag	75	33	57	+13	0.21	1		0.21	-0.28	1	51	+47
Vincennes_5NE	76	32	55	+7	1.36	2	53	1.36	+0.84	2	42	+30
Wanatah	75	24	54	+12	0.30	2	53	0.30	-0.18	2	36	+32
W_Lafayette_6NW	76	30	57	+13	0.50	1	54	0.50	+0.06	1	46	+42
Wheatfield	78	30	57	+15	0.36	2		0.36	-0.12	2	50	+46
Winamac	75	28	56	+13	0.40	2		0.40	-0.06	2	49	+45
Young_America	72	29	54	+11	0.05	1		0.05	-0.39	1	38	+34

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GGD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Good Start (continued)

3. Don't cheat on the burndown herbicide program. Use full rates of Roundup, Touchdown, 2,4-D, or paraquat to achieve a complete control of existing weeds. Dandelions and marestail can be controlled with more 2,4-D and less Roundup or Touchdown in the mixture. Grasses will need more Roundup or Touchdown and less 2,4-D.
4. Don't spray burndown herbicides too early. When the temperatures are in the 50's, these products do not work as well as they do when the temperature is in the 70's or higher. Likewise, don't spray post-emergence herbicides when there has been a prolonged dry period and the temperature is in the high 90's. Usually this causes excessive crop damage and is not very effective at controlling weeds.
5. Use good agronomic practices to get a healthy well established uniform crop stand. The good start and early crop competition will reduce the need for rescue treatments and the overall cost of herbicides by shading out late emerging weeds.
6. Control weeds that emerge after the crop earlier than usual. This will allow for the use of less than maximum label rates of herbicides. Leave the weeds that come in after mid season unless they are extremely heavy and large. These weeds seldom cause yield losses.
7. Use the correct spray additives with burndown and post-emergence herbicides. Use only those that are recommended on the product label. Many products will perform equally well, thus buy the cheapest ones. Use AMS with Roundup and other herbicide products that call for this additive on their label, especially when using hard water or water high in iron content.
8. When using less than the labeled rates of post-emergence herbicides, spray earlier than normal to achieve good weed control. Be prepared to make a second application 10 to 14 days later if the reduced rates were not totally effective.
9. With highly mobile herbicides such as Roundup, Select, Poast or other grass specific products, reduce the spray volume to improve the performance of the herbicide. With Basagran, Blazer, Cobra, Reflex or other contact sprays, use the higher labeled recommended volume for best results.
10. Calibrate the spray equipment and use the proper nozzles to achieve the best coverage and reduce drift. Periodically check to ensure that the sprayer is still calibrated throughout the spraying season. The majority of sprayers over apply by 10 to 30 percent due to poor calibration and worn tips.

—Thomas N. Jordan, Purdue University

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